

Claire Ireland

Consultant in International Environmental Management

SUMMARY

Claire is a senior consultant of *theIDLgroup*. She is an environment specialist with substantial experience in applying sustainable livelihood approaches. Over the last 15 years Claire's work has focused on equitable and sustainable ways to unlock the potential of environmental wealth. Areas of particular interest include food security, safety nets, climate change and building livelihood assets of the poor.

Claire has strong analytical and policy influencing skills. She has supported donors, governments and NGOs to conceptualise, design and evaluate policies, strategies, programmes and projects within the environment and natural resource sectors. She has worked extensively in Africa and Asia and is currently working full time in AusAID providing environmental direction and expertise to the Australian Aid Programme. Claire is currently on sabbatical from *theIDLgroup* and will be returning in October 2010.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Programme design, implementation and evaluation in environment and natural resource sectors.
- Ensuring the contribution of environment and natural resources assets to poverty reduction and economic growth are understood, and incorporated into development programmes.
- Incorporating an understanding of poor people's realities into policy and programmes.
- Facilitator and trainer, effective in multicultural and international working environments.

QUALIFICATIONS

- MSc Environmental Technology Specialising in Ecological Management, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, 1999
BSc. (Hons) Applied Environmental and Resource Science, University of Salford, 1996

CLIENTS

World Bank, UNDP, DFID, AusAID, IUCN, CARE, World Vision, British Red Cross, various NGOs



COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Bangladesh, Caribbean, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Environment and natural resource policy

Environment Adviser to AusAID - Global

Provided fulltime advice on AusAID's environmental management processes and procedures, including the development of a new Environment and Climate Change Strategy for the Australian Aid Programme (AusAID, 2008/9).

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of new Forest Act – Kenya

Project manager and environment specialist of a team of eight for this six-month institution centred SEA. Aim of SEA was to ensure social, environmental and economic issues relating to formulation of the new Forests Act (2005) and those that affect the extreme poor were addressed. Ensured policies, plans, programmes, rules and regulations were refined and developed to minimise risks and maximise benefits of the poor and disadvantaged, and improve governance of the forest sector. (World Bank, 2006/7).

Harmonisation across environment and natural resources sectors - Uganda

Whilst seconded to Government of Uganda, worked closely with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Lands to ensure development of environment and natural resource policies in Uganda were harmonised and supported the objectives of the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture PMA (DFID, 2001/03).

Review of Sustainable Coastal Management White Paper – South Africa

Reviewed project selection, support and monitoring processes of DFID support to the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in South Africa, to ensure effective implementation of the White Paper on Sustainable Coastal Management. The study recommended improvements to ensure more effective delivery of the programme goal – sustainable management of coastal resources (DFID, 2003).

Climate change and adaption

Adapting to climate change, socio-economic impact assessment - Bangladesh

Evaluated the socio-economic impact and livelihood outcomes for beneficiaries of a DFID funded project to support University Fisheries Education and Research. The aim of the research was to develop new technologies that took into consideration the impacts of climate change on the poor in Bangladesh. Part of wider lesson-learning initiative to capture and disseminate lessons learnt from the project. Managed the overall publication of the findings into a glossy report (DFID, 2004).

Incentives and disincentives for sustainable environmental management

Review of environmental governance - Uganda

Supported the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) in Uganda to undertake a review of the enabling governance framework for environmental management. The aim of the study was to ensure the full and effective participation of all stakeholders in environmental and natural resource management in Uganda. Provided technical inputs through membership of programme steering committee (DFID, 2003).

Integrating environmental safeguards

Environmental safeguards in PRSC - Uganda

Whilst working as a DFID Environment Adviser in Uganda, was part of a team that successfully influenced the World Bank and the Government of Uganda to include a number of environmental safeguards into their Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC) matrix. Environmental management and environmental safeguard indicators were included in PRSC as a result (DFID, 2001/03).

Development of environmental safeguards for PMA - Uganda

Identified environmental risks and opportunities posed by the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA). Developed environmental checklists that were incorporated into PMA guidelines for district and local government planning. Identified different mechanisms for ensuring promotion of sustainable agriculture including the inclusion of environmental competencies in agricultural service providers, the inclusion of environmental issues into the compulsory training for service providers, and the establishment of a working group between the PMA, the agricultural extension department, the Ministry of the Environment and NGOs (2001/3).

Mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages

Design of a national poverty-environment programme - Kenya

Teamed with a national consultant to undertake wide stakeholder consultation at national and local levels in to inform the design of a national poverty-environment programme for the Government of Kenya. The objective of the programme was to strengthen capacity in the GoK to better address poverty-environment relationships in national planning processes, in order to ensure sustainable poverty eradication. Ensured linkages to existing programmes so that capacity was strengthened to fight poverty through sound environmental management (UNDP, 2003)

Deepening the understanding of poverty-environment linkages – Uganda

Whilst working as a DFID Environment Adviser in Uganda, I identified the need for greater understanding of the poverty-environment linkages faced by rural communities in Uganda. I was able to secure funding from within the DFID Uganda office to fund this 8 month study. The aim of which was to deepen the understanding of how poverty and environment were linked in order to better inform national planning processes. I led and participated in this participatory poverty-environment case study, that formed part of Uganda's second national participatory poverty assessment - PPA (DFID 2002)

Strengthening environmental governance

Natural resource governance learning resources – global

Co-authored a web-based learning resource for DFID livelihoods advisors exploring the political economy of natural resource use; the implications of good and bad natural resource governance for livelihoods; and governance issues in the forestry, fisheries and non-renewable sectors. (DFID, 2007).

Evolving role of environmental management institutions in East Africa – from conservation to poverty reduction

Co-authored this chapter in the book, 'Reducing Poverty and Sustaining the Environment: The Politics of Local Engagement' by IIED. In this chapter we examined the key institutional reforms for environmental management in East Africa and the political context in which they took place. We assessed the key drivers for these institutional reforms and analysed the adequacy, or inadequacy, of these institutions to act in their new role as agents for poverty reduction (DFID, 2004).

Linking global environmental issues to the

Review of community based approaches for sustainable natural resource use – Zimbabwe

Led a team of two to review how community based approaches were being

local level

used in the DFID Protracted Relief Programme in Zimbabwe to ensure sustainable natural resource use following the protracted drought crisis. The review involved developing an analytical framework for assessing appropriateness of community based approaches, undertaking participatory field research across Zimbabwe and making recommendations to improve the use of community based approaches in a protracted relief programme (DFID, 2006).

Sustainable livelihoods and environmental opportunities for coastal communities - Mozambique & Tanzania

Led a six month study to identify sustainable livelihood opportunities for coastal communities in the Western Indian Ocean. Reviewed best practice and developed guidelines for coastal practitioners on how to use Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches to ensure sustainable management of the environment and natural resources. Included training on sustainable livelihood approaches for district government officials. Undertook a detailed livelihoods assessment in Tanzania and stakeholder consultations in Mozambique (IUCN, 2004).

Monitoring and evaluation of a community based natural resource use project - Kenya

Undertook an annual monitoring review of a DFID project to support community based planning for rural development in the coastal areas of Kenya. The project was run by the Aga Khan Foundation and aimed to facilitate community development through improved dry-land agriculture and rural enterprise development based on the sustainable use of natural resources (DFID, 2004).

Ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the poor

Assessment of a cash grant programme and its contribution to livelihood recovery in post-tsunami Indonesia

Documented the learning from a British Red Cross Society (BRCS) cash grant programme on re-establishing livelihoods post Tsunami. The study examined the different components of the cash grant programme and undertook a comparative analysis with cash transfer approaches to re-establish livelihoods adopted by other humanitarian agencies working in the post Tsunami context. The study provided lessons and best practice to the wider International Red Cross Federation (BRCS, 2008)

Review of the sustainability of World Vision's food for work/food for asset programmes – Lesotho, Laos, Ethiopia, Georgia

Working on a four month study to review the extent to which food for work/food for asset (FFW/FFA) programmes have contributed to livelihood security in World Vision programme areas in Africa and Asia. The study will assess the sustainability and appropriateness of FFW/FFA programmes in achieving livelihood security. Policy recommendations to World Vision will follow (WV, 2008).

Sustainable livelihoods assessment - Zimbabwe

Supported a Zimbabwean NGO to undertake a livelihoods assessment in order to realign its programmes to the priorities of the communities in which it worked. The programme was making a transition from relief to development following a series of droughts in Zimbabwe. Facilitated the writing team to undertake a livelihood analysis. A three year grant was awarded to the NGO from Oxfam based on their livelihoods analysis (FACHIG, 2004).

Training

Sustainable livelihoods for natural resource management – Nepal

Provided a 7 day training course on Sustainable Livelihood Approaches to field researchers in the National Agriculture Research Council. The aim of the training was to ensure greater community participation in the development of natural resource management research programmes. The course was tailored

to the specific needs of NARC which required them to become more poverty focused in their research. The Sustainable Livelihoods training fed into a wider organisational change process facilitated by IDL (DFID, 2004).

Project management training course – University of Geneva

Managed the development of a 12 week training course on 'Project Management In Development' for the University of Geneva's International Organisations MBA course (University of Geneva, 2005).

Supporting organisational change

Development of a regional strategic plan – West & Central Africa

Supported the development of a regional strategic and operational plan for this regionally focused agricultural research organisation (CORAF/WECARD). Inputs have included the design and facilitation of two planning workshops which informed the development of the overall strategic plan (CORAF, 2006).

Supporting strategic organisational change – Nepal

Provided training and facilitation inputs to the National Agriculture Research Council as it undertook a process of organisational change to become more poverty focused. Inputs included facilitation of a Core Functional Analysis Workshop for senior staff and training on Sustainable Livelihood Approaches for field researchers (DFID, 2004).

EOI and tender production

Co-ordinating and writing EOI and tender documents for submission to various multilateral and bilateral organisations

Whilst working at IDL I have been responsible for contributing to and leading on the development of a number of EOIs and Tenders. Submissions have included proposals to the World Bank, UNDP and DFID. I am familiar and up to date with the required formats by these organisations (2003 – present).

CAREER HISTORY

Apr 2009 – Oct 2010 **Environment Adviser**, AusAID, Canberra

Responsibilities include:

- Providing practical, high-quality advice for the identification, preparation and monitoring of policies, strategies and activities under Australia's overseas aid program and global multilateral programs/instruments to which the Australian aid program contributes;
- Leading and participating in teams undertaking identification, design, appraisal, review and other missions;
- Identifying innovative and effective external sources of support and advice on environmental issues;
- Providing on-going advice on the AusAID's environmental management processes and procedures, including enhancement of those, where required;
- Keeping AusAID up to date on international developments on environmental issues and best international practice in the area;
- Building capacity of AusAID staff working on environmental issues and promoting consistent application of relevant AusAID policies and procedures across the aid program.

2003 to date – **Senior Consultant**, theIDLgroup.

[Currently on sabbatical as an Environment Adviser in AusAID until October 2010]

Responsibilities include:

- Providing consultancy services on environment and natural resource issues in an international development context.
- Contributing to wider marketing of IDL consultants and developing commercial viability of the organisation.
- Organising and participating in consultant in-days to ensure sharing of lessons from contracts and professional intellectual experiences.
- Peer review of colleagues work to ensure quality control of IDL brand

PREVIOUS

<p>Sept 2001 – Aug 2003</p>	<p>Environment Adviser DFID-Uganda (20%), Seconded Environment Adviser, Government of Uganda (80%)</p> <p>Time split between working for the Government of Uganda (GoU) as an environment adviser to the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA), a Sector Wide Approach to improve rural livelihoods of the poor, and supporting the DFID-Uganda office on ensuring environment issues given due consideration in its programmes and support to GoU. Highlights of outcomes achieved are detailed in the above recent professional experience.</p>	<p>Uganda</p>
<p>Sep 2000 – Sep 2001</p>	<p>Associate Professional Officer in Environment, Department for International Development (DFID), UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed to the work of the Sustainable Development Unit in reaching an international agreement on convergence of development plans, principles for strategic planning for sustainable development and promotion of an international verification process for monitoring the environment International Development Target (IDT). • Supported bilateral work with regard to the design, management and monitoring of DFID-funded projects and programmes. • Worked in Nigeria and the Caribbean to give strategic country environmental advice to national and local government programmes. 	<p>UK</p>
<p>May 2000 – Aug 2000</p>	<p>Policy Adviser, PLAN International UK</p>	<p>UK</p>
<p>Jan 2000 – Apr 2000</p>	<p>Research Assistant, Knowledge Policy Unit, DFID</p>	<p>UK</p>
<p>Sep 1999 – Dec 1999</p>	<p>Research Assistant, International Economics Development Group, ODI (Overseas Development Institute)</p>	<p>UK</p>
<p>Apr 1999 – Aug 1999</p>	<p>Researcher, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) South Africa</p>	<p>South Africa</p>
<p>Oct 1998 – Sep 1999</p>	<p>MSc Environmental Technology specialising in Ecological Management, University of London, Imperial College</p>	<p>UK</p>
<p>Nov 1996 – Sep 1998</p>	<p>Project Officer, Green Cross UK</p>	<p>UK</p>
<p>Aug 1995</p>	<p>Environment Policy Adviser, Kenya Energy Environment Non</p>	<p>Kenya</p>

– Aug 1996 Government Organisation (KENGO). Funded by the Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Strategic Environmental Assessment of Kenya Forest Act 2005 – Co-authored this World Bank Study published in 2007 http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/825826-1111478628035/21584618/KenyaForestESW_FullReport_Web.pdf

Natural Resource Governance - Online Learning Resource for DFID Advisers (2007) <http://www.passlivelivelihoods.org.uk/plow/default.asp?id=262&root=116262>

Reducing Poverty and Sustaining the Environment: the Politics of Local Engagement (published in 2005 by Earthscan, DFID and IIED). Co-authored a chapter on “The Evolving Roles of Environmental Management Institutions in East Africa – From Conservation to Poverty Reduction” (with Dr. Godber Tumshabe) [http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=-AnJWU-V5L8C&dq=Reducing+Poverty+and+Sustaining+the+Environment:+the+Politics+of+Local+Engagement+\(published&pg=PP1&ots=iSsxTNAyxW&sig=y4hL-zKa3QrCuws5xqvHNSseJ3A&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPP1_M1](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=-AnJWU-V5L8C&dq=Reducing+Poverty+and+Sustaining+the+Environment:+the+Politics+of+Local+Engagement+(published&pg=PP1&ots=iSsxTNAyxW&sig=y4hL-zKa3QrCuws5xqvHNSseJ3A&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPP1_M1)

Alternative Sustainable Livelihoods for Coastal Communities – A review of experience and guide to best practice (Published by IUCN, December 2004)

Research for Impact – The Experience of SUFER, A DFID Project in Bangladesh (booklet published in 2004) Co-authored with Steve Ashley

Livelihood Insights in Zimbabwe – Challenges and Trends with case studies from Matabeleland and Mashonaland (Published in March 2004 by World Vision Zimbabwe)

The Uganda Participatory Poverty Environment Assessment – Learning from Experience (written for DFID Policy Division in June 2003 – published as a lesson learning paper by IDL in Oct 2003)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Year of birth 1973

Nationality British

Professional Development *Skills Development*

- Professional Development Programme (2008)
- Training of trainers (2004 & 2007)
- Facilitation (2007)
- Leadership skills (2003)
- Influencing & negotiation (2003)
- Think on your feet: Improved personal effectiveness/communication skills (2002)

Professional Development

- Trade & development: How trade effects development decisions, DFID (2003)
- Basic & applied economics focusing on Africa, LSE(2002)
- Participatory rural appraisal, Institute of Development Studies (2001)